

*The* **H** *Magazine for the Christian Home*  
**Hearthstone**



- **A Richer Thanksgiving-Family Style-Alpha Mell Stuart**
- **"Not as the World Giveth . . ."-Mary E. Lockhart**

**NOVEMBER, 1959 - 25c**



# The **H** Magazine for the Christian Home Hearthstone

E. LEE NEAL, *Editor*

RUBY CRADDOCK, *Assistant Editor*

ANKO JANSEN, *layout*

## Contents

### ARTICLES

A Richer Thanksgiving—Family Style . . . . .	Alpha Mell Stuart	1
Are We Spoiling Our Children? . . . . .	Donald Lee Scott	4
I Don't Want My Child to Have "Every Advantage" . . . . .	Marjorie King Garrison	10
"Not as the World Giveth . . ." . . . . .	Mary E. Lockhart	13
Gifts That Last (Study Article and Guide for Parents' Groups) . . . . .	Bess Hibarger	22
Christmas Card Tricks . . . . .	Frances Dunlap Heron	26

### STORIES

As a Family . . . . .	Ona Freeman Lathrop	7
Story for Children The Little Yellow Pumpkin . . . . .	Ina E. Lindsley	21

### FEATURES

Fun for the Thanksgiving Dinner Party . . . . .	Erma Reynolds	16
Worship in the Family with Children . . . . .		18
Biblegram . . . . .	Hilda E. Allen	25
Family Counselor . . . . .	Donald M. Maynard	29
Books for the Hearthside . . . . .		31
Over the Back Fence . . . . .		32
Poetry Page . . . . .	Inside Back Cover	

Cover Photo by Luoma Photos

Published Jointly Each Month By

#### Christian Board of Publication

WILBUR H. CRAMBLET, *President*

Beaumont and Pine Boulevard  
Box 179, St. Louis 66, Missouri

#### The American Baptist Publication Society

RICHARD HOILAND, *Executive Secretary*  
1703 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Vol. 11

Editorial Committee

No. 11

Marvin E. Smith, *Director of Church School Literature Division*  
Jessie B. Carlson, *Children's Editor*  
Ray L. Henthorne, *Youth Editor*  
Sherman R. Hanson, *Assistant Youth Editor*  
E. Lee Neal, *Adult and Family Life Editor*  
Richard E. Lentz, *Director Family Life*

Benjamin P. Browne, *Director Christian Publications*  
Marian Brawn, *Children's Editor*  
Dorothy Sill, *Assistant Children's Editor*  
Berthold Jacksteit, *Youth Editor*  
Charles W. Griffin, *Uniform Lesson Editor*  
Francis E. Whiting, *Adult Editor*  
Joseph J. Hanson, *Director Family Life*

Second class postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices. All books and printed matter referred to in *Hearthstone* may be ordered from either publishing house. All prices are subject to change without notice.

The Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible, copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., 1946, 1952. Used by permission.

Price, 25 cents per single copy; five or more copies to one address, 20 cents each (60 cents per quarter); single subscriptions, \$3.00 per year.

Copyright 1959 by the Christian Board of Publication, and the American Baptist Publication Society

Printed in St. Louis, Mo., U. S. A.



Have you made your plans for Thanksgiving Day? If not, or if they are adjustable, in this issue of *Hearthstone* you will find a number of helpful articles to make you ready for the big day. In this endeavor, one of the perplexing questions Christian families ask is: What preparations can we as a family make to experience Thanksgiving in a deeper, more meaningful way? Alpha Mell Stuart in "A Richer Thanksgiving—Family Style" offers some very interesting possibilities. In addition to some "new traditions" which the family can perform, she includes some ideas and materials for a family Thanksgiving worship service.

Families will discover further aids to planning for Thanksgiving in the three-page worship section, pages 18, 19, and 20. This section provides material suitable for families with young and older children. On these pages are appropriate Bible verses, poems, a Thanksgiving Day story and song as well as other suggested materials.

While making plans for Thanksgiving the family, also, begins to think of Christmas. Two articles that may provide assistance are: "Gifts That Last" by Bess Hibarger, and "Christmas Card Tricks" by Frances Dunlap Heron. The first of the two articles mentioned lifts up the merits in providing good books as gifts. Guides for making appropriate selections are given. "Christmas Card Tricks" develops some very useful ideas in Christmas card preparation.

Donald Lee Scott raises the question "Are We Spoiling Our Children?" When we read an article such as this we really begin to perceive the unhappy life cut out for a spoiled child and for those who will be associated with him or her. Let this article guide you into a new religious orientation in regard to this whole matter.

Are church families giving or nodding to God? Are you giving according to your Christian belief? Have you helped your children to discover how to give? Mary E. Lockhart would have us ponder these questions as we peruse, "Not as the World Giveth . . ."

Articles Planned for December  
"We Get Ready for Christmas in Our House" by Cornelia C. Maris; "This Christmas Use the Children's Crayon Art" by Rosalie W. Doss; "Christmas Should Be a Family Affair" by Matilda Rose McLaren; and a play, "A New Kind of Christmas" by Lydia Carr and Ruth M. Ludwig.

Until then,

R. C.



## A Richer Thanksgiving -

# Family Style



by Alpha Mell Stuart

—Art FitzSimmons

Over the river and through the wood,  
To grandfather's house we go;  
The horse knows the way  
To carry the sleigh  
Through the white and drifted snow.

—Lydia Maria Child

IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS  
since families climbed into their  
sleighs, bundled themselves into  
warm lap-ropes, and let Old Dob-  
bin pull them across the fields to  
spend a special day, Thanksgiving  
Day, at grandfather's house.

Even though we may still travel  
to grandfather's on a cold day in  
November—or the grandparents  
may come to see us—nowadays

it's the fast and convenient fam-  
ily car, a plane, train, or bus that  
provides the transportation.

That is, however, about the only  
difference. Thanksgiving Day is  
usually a family day and families  
observe it in much the same spirit  
as they did when Lydia Maria  
Child wrote her beloved and nos-  
talgic poem nearly a hundred  
years ago.

Families still make plans to be  
together on that one day of feast-  
ing and counting of blessings.  
There is still the excitement of  
preparing the meal, greeting the  
family and guests as they assemble,  
the happy reunion at the table,  
the comfortable talk and visiting  
afterwards.

Later, when all the good-bys  
have been said, there is the genial  
glow of another family experience  
that has brought love and har-  
mony into the lives of its members.

Yes, there is something about  
Thanksgiving that brings back  
memories of other years when we  
were the children or the grand-  
children of the family. We real-  
ized then that there was something  
unusual about this holiday with its  
emphasis upon our country's past.

We were told that long ago the  
white settler and his Indian friend  
shared their food and said their  
thanks to God for a bountiful  
harvest. Even though we may  
have lived in the city, eaten gro-  
cery store food, and certainly had



Dad gathers together appropriate scripture for family worship.



→ Daughter, who has recently learned to type, makes copies of Thanksgiving poems and meditations.

—Photos by  
erb

Mother and Son work together on the special interest centers planned for the Thanksgiving season.

never seen an Indian, we joined with our elders and cousins in keeping alive a custom that impressed us for both its solemnity and gaiety.

As children, we also sensed that this unique day belonged to the family. Of course, the schools taught us the meaning and history of Thanksgiving. The church approved it and the nation's press recorded its coming and going.

Yet the feeling persisted that home was the place where Thanksgiving Day really happened.

Others must have had the same sentiment, for throughout the years and all over the country families have met of their own accord in the intimacy of their homes to "gather together to ask the Lord's blessing."

The result? What began as a community observance when Plymouth colonists met to praise God for a successful harvest and what is now a legal holiday by Congressional ruling remains essentially a religious rite carried out by members of a family as the elders teach the younger.







*Thanksgiving happens in the home.*

How, then, can Mother and Father and children turn this day into one that brings rich memories of family life at its best and opportunities for one of the most rewarding of human experiences, the individual's worship of his Creator?

One thing is certain, according to those parents who have had particular success in observing family Thanksgivings. *Advance planning is absolutely necessary.*

By advance planning is meant the setting of the stage, an undefinable, intangible quality that has nothing to do with meal planning or food buying. There must be the sense of something important coming to interrupt the daily schedule of the family, that this interruption is to be most delightful, and that everyone is in on the exciting events that will take place.

Creating the atmosphere of expectancy is surely an art, but most parents will find themselves adept at it when they turn their memories back to their own childhood and remember how they looked forward to a special family day.

When Grandmother baked the

mince and pumpkin pies a week ahead of time and stored them in the cold room she was not just being wise in meal planning. The flurry of cooking and the enticing goodies did their part in setting the stage for a Thanksgiving that could not fail in enjoyment for the whole family.

However, since today we have ready-dressed turkeys and bakery breads to cut short the hours of cooking and take away some of the mysterious doings in the kitchen, we must think of other ways to prepare for the big day.

One family keeps a Thanksgiving box. It is usually stored in the attic alongside the Christmas box, but every November it is brought downstairs and opened. Mother and the children look through its contents to see what can be used this year and what can be discarded. There are two soap carvings of Pilgrims that the sixth grader made last year. They can be set out again. The tall yellow candles are still usable. Last year's menu is read. There will be a few changes in it. The ear of Indian corn is musty so it will be shelled for the birds, and the teen-agers

will canvass the roadside markets for new corn and other decorations.

Other mementoes are found and soon Thanksgiving plans and suggestions come tumbling one after another until Mother cries, "Not so fast! We still have plenty of time!"

The seed is planted. Thanksgiving for the family is on its way.

Besides planning in advance, *there should also be a conscious attempt on the part of the parents to help every member of the family feel that he is vital to the others' enjoyment of the day.*

In pioneer days this was done by the father and sons trekking to the woods for wild game, the children gathering nuts, the older ones helping with the meal. Everyone contributed to the enjoyment of all.

We paraphrase the former customs today by substituting our own customs that provide the same kind of satisfaction.

An example is the growing tradition of a family Thanksgiving service.

This program might be held at the table after dishes from the main course have been cleared away and just before the dessert is served. Hungers are satisfied, the crumbs have been brushed away, the table with its lighted candles, autumn flowers, and fruits is as festive as it was at the beginning of the meal, and everyone awaits the ceremony of a family service.

The program is planned by a different child each year and Mother and Father act as guides and helpers. Included in the service are a song or two, the reading of a Psalm of praise or other appropriate Scripture, a brief recounting of the first Thanksgiving, and a surprise contribution from each member of the family.

The latter feature is the most fun, for no one knows just what will happen.

One year Grandfather told how as a boy he baled hay an extra week so that he could buy fancy oranges for Thanksgiving. The toddler recited a table grace he

*(Continued on page 28)*



# ARE WE SPOILING OUR CHILDREN?

by Donald Lee Scott

NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW the source of the old adage, "Spare the rod and spoil the child," but it is used frequently by those who feel that today's children are spoiled because they have not had a sufficient amount of wood applied to a certain part of their anatomy which causes physical (as well as mental) pain. This is to assume that a well-spanked child is an unspoiled child.

A well-meaning parent who wants his children to have all the "things" he missed when he was young showers his children with gifts and material things. Those who are unable to give their children all that characterizes a "successful" American charge that overindulgent parents are guilty of spoiling their children.

Some people believe that an only child is a spoiled child. Likewise, the parents of an only child will accuse the youngest child or baby in a larger family of being spoiled.

It would seem that the answer to the question, "Are we spoiling our children?" would be an unequivocal *yes*. If all we have said is true, there are few children in America left unspoiled. Yet it is obvious that this is not the whole truth, because the basic premises upon which this conclusion is reached are faulty.

First, it is necessary to define what is meant by the term "spoil." Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary* defines the word "to impair seriously; vitiate; mar; ruin"; or "to impair the disposition of, as by over-indulgence; as to *spoil* a child." The first definition was listed as archaic, yet is quite descriptive of the end result of a spoiled child.

Marjorie Momyer, Chairman for the Child Study Department of Stephens College, describes the spoiled child as



—Larry Fitzgerald

"...one who is insistent, wilful, and dissatisfied. He has really had his capacity to enjoy life, to have confidence in himself and others, spoiled. It is clear that spoiled children are not happy. They lack the inner security that is so necessary for a joyous, confident, wholehearted approach to play, to work, or to relationships with other people. A spoiled child is really suffering from a kind of emotional malnutrition."<sup>1</sup>

This is more nearly a correct description of a child who is spoiled than the first assumptions made on faulty premises at the beginning of this discussion.

There is no one way of correction which is better than another for all children. Yet, discipline is needed for the child to develop into a mature person. Discipline thought of solely in terms of control is to miss its real meaning and intent. Othilda Krug and Helen L. Beck tell us, "The positive view of discipline, like

<sup>1</sup>Marjorie Momyer, "When Children Are Spoiled," *Childcraft*, Vol. XIII, pp. 135-136. Reproduced from *Childcraft* with permission © 1954 by Field Enterprises Educational Corporation. All rights reserved.



the Latin word *disciplina* from which it is derived, implies learning, education, training."<sup>2</sup> They go on to spell this out in four statements:

- "1. A combination of all the constructive influences that parents and teachers can have on the growth of children, including the necessary restrictions that any course of training demands.
- "2. Kindly, helpful training for the child that is as important to his well-being and comfort as it is to the well-being and comfort of others.
- "3. Guidance that draws upon resources within the child himself, and is not merely imposed upon him from the outside.
- "4. A process by which the child, in learning to control himself, also learns to master his environment."

One who holds this concept of discipline will find it difficult to spoil a child. Our society is still suffering from the effects of the early experiments in progressive education which held a somewhat laissez-faire attitude toward the child. Leave him alone to

<sup>2</sup>Othilda Krug and Helen L. Beck, *A Guide to Better Discipline*, Science Research Associates, Inc., Chicago. p. 5. Copyright 1954. Used by permission.

make his own choices—to do as he pleases. This produced some spoiled children, not because of the absence of the rod, but because of the absence of the security and guidance that they needed. The adage should read, "Spare positive discipline and spoil the child."

This jesting modern beatitude contains more truth than humor: "Blessed are those who go around in circles for they shall be known as wheels." Parents and teachers of today find themselves going around in circles with little time for important values such as guiding children in satisfying personality development. In order to justify their working so hard for material possessions, parents shower their children with gifts which they may have missed as children. Have you heard this mother's cry? "You have everything—clothes, toys, money. We have given you everything you ever wanted and you do not appreciate it." Of course, the neighbors think this child is spoiled. If we recall Miss Momyer's definition of a spoiled child, the neighbors are right.

Miss Momyer explains:

"You can probably call to mind instances of parents who have showered their children with elaborate toys, but who have not seemed to enjoy spending

—Paul R. Kidd

What a little fellow wouldn't give for some genuine love and attention!







—Religion in American Life

### The religious orientation of the family has an important bearing on the task of rearing children.

time with the children themselves. It is not the toys that spoil the child. It is the lack of feeling of being a person who is truly valued that makes a youngster disagreeable.”<sup>3</sup>

A child needs love, acceptance, security, protection, independence, faith, guidance, and control. If his needs are met, no amount of material possessions will spoil him. He will more nearly share and show his gratitude because the gift or possession represents the love and concern someone has shown him. He needs to be taught to share and this kind of climate is right for his learning.

What about an only child or a youngest child in the family? All that has been said about discipline and meeting a child's deeper needs apply to children in these family patterns. An overindulged child, whether he is a “baby” or the only child, often will be spoiled.

Another facet of this problem is the religious orientation of the family. The family who thinks of itself as a truly Christian one will think of itself in terms of stewardship. It will be guided by the belief that

“Stewardship is a way of life. It begins with commitment, commitment of all one is or has to God through Jesus Christ. Commitment is the basis of stewardship. Without it all expression of stewardship rests upon insecure foundations.

“Stewardship begins with commitment, but expresses itself through the use of material things, abilities, and time. These three include all that men possess. To use these possessions aright involves men in many relations to God. Men commit their lives to God and use all that they have to serve God.”<sup>4</sup>

With this orientation of life the child will realize

that what he possesses is not really his. This concept is difficult for the preschooler to understand but education for stewardship must begin during this period of life. He can begin to appreciate the fact that God planned for all the children and adults in the world to have the things they need. He can learn that God is unhappy when some people have more than they need when others have so little. He will learn the joy of sharing his possessions as well as himself with those in need. As he grows into school age he will become more unselfish by developing right attitudes toward possessions and his abilities. The scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31), will have meaning because of significant and satisfying experiences that help to interpret it for the child.

Children who do not learn this early in life will grow up to be spoiled adults—insistent, willful, dissatisfied, unhappy, and insecure. A person so maladjusted is unable to share.

This season of thanksgiving will find many in our land and around the world who have little materially for which to be thankful. Some children do not have an overabundance to eat, to wear, or to keep them warm. Yet they have much to be thankful for in that they are a part of a redemptive fellowship where members truly love one another and show their concern for their lack of life's necessities. This is what the church can do for those who have and those who have not. Love them, redeem them, and save them from themselves. Each person becomes interested in others and he has little time to spoil or become spoiled. The church can help parents in dealing with tensions and in an understanding of how children grow and develop. It can teach them skills and methods for guiding the growth and development of their children. It can give them materials to use in the home to guide them in Christian stewardship

(Continued on page 28)

<sup>3</sup>Ibid, p. 136. Used by permission.

<sup>4</sup>Stewardship and Bethany Materials, St. Louis, Christian Board of Publication. Used by permission.



"What difference does it make?" he shrugged. "We never do anything as a family any more. . . ." "Why Henry," she had countered, "what do you mean?"

—Norm Hancock

# As A Family

by

Ona Freeman Lathrop



THE SHADOWS OF the tall poplars at the back of the yard were lengthening across the grass as Emily Matthews retraced her steps to the house. She walked slowly, thinking deeply of her husband's words and wondering wherein she had failed. She had been down to the lower garden where Henry was hoeing the cabbages to ask his opinion of letting the twins spend the night with a playmate when he said the thing that set her worrying.

"What difference does it make?" he had shrugged. "We never do anything as a family any more. May as well let them sleep away from home, too, I suppose."

"Why, Henry," she had countered, "what do you mean?" But the tiny little worry that had been nagging at the back of her mind these last few months suddenly sprang to life size and troubled her.

Henry had straightened his aching back and had leaned on his hoe, his brown eyes snapping. "I mean—sometimes I wonder if we haven't carried this 'Live and let live' theory of ours a little too far. 'Let them decide for themselves,' we've said, hoping they would choose wisely. And usually they do. We can thank our good training—or perhaps our lucky stars—for that. Sometimes I think of the old days when families sat down to the table together, went to church together, even played games together, and I get to wondering what has become of family spirit in this modern day. Oh, bother, Emily, I'm sorry I spoke up. Tired, I guess. Sure thing, let them go to the Rogers'. Maybe they'll teach them something we can't."



Emily thought of the big Rogers family, from married sons and daughters to kindergartners, and wondered how Mrs. Rogers kept that big family together all by herself. Night after night, cars came and went in front of the old Rogers' house next door, with the young married ones dropping in and the big long table set with always room to add a plate or two for late-comers. Sounds of hilarity often came drifting across, and now Emily wondered how Mom Rogers did it. She wandered over to the fence where the plump, good-natured woman was pulling weeds.

"How do you manage to keep your family so happy and interested in their home, Mrs. Rogers? Even the married ones seem to love to come back, and you never have any trouble keeping the young ones home."

Mrs. Rogers only smiled as she pulled at an obstreperous weed. "I guess it's because we just like to be together. Seems when the children were smaller there was never enough money, so we learned to play games and have big simple meals and make home the center of everything, and somehow it has just kept on that way. I didn't have any plan—I just always said we have to stick together."

Emily remembered that when the twins came in later coaxing to go. "She prob'ly won't even notice we're there," six-year-old Kimmy had declared. "There's so many Rogerses they sleep in that big attic-dorm upstairs any old place, and she just puts down an extra plate or two at mealtime and says, 'Eat hearty, kids. Nothin' fancy, but there's more in the kitchen. And have fun—remember, we're just all one big happy family.' That's the way she talks," Kim added.

Emily winced a little at such nonchalance, thinking of her own careful planning when guests were coming, and how flustered she could become if an unexpected one arrived at mealtime. "We'll see," she said absently, a new idea forming in her mind.

Grandma Matthews was stirring the stew at the stove. Emily darted

toward her and rescued her precious tiny potatoes from being mashed to a pulp. "I don't stir it much after putting in the potatoes, Mother Matthews," she said quietly. "If it simmers, it won't stick."

"But I turned up the fire. The twins want to eat early so they can go, and it won't be done by six." Grandma was trotting about the kitchen, setting out soup bowls on trays disapprovingly.

Emily said, "I'm not sure they are going yet. We haven't said."

"They've set their hearts on it, and there'll be a rumpus," Grandma warned. Emily hated a fuss, and usually avoided it if possible, but suddenly things had taken on a new perspective. Jim, their oldest son, would be leaving for college in the fall. Marianne would be entering high school. Suddenly this summer seemed very important to their mother. Somehow—some way—she must draw them together so that they all had happy memories of a close family relationship when they left the nest.

"I think we'll all eat in the dining room tonight," she announced, and Grandma dropped a soup spoon which went clattering to the floor. "Well, I never! What's come over you, at last, Emily? You know the young ones will want to take their trays in where they can watch their TV programs. Of course, if it was

MY house—." She set her lips in that thin grim line that always shouted, "I won't interfere, even though I don't approve." Every meal found Grandma seated decorously at the dining table no matter where the rest chose to eat. Usually Emily joined her, when she had finished running in with the salt or the salad dressing or whatever as the requests came from the TV crowd. Sometimes Henry came, too, and put his plate on the table with them, but lately he had been joining the young fry before the television. Tonight, Emily vowed, it would be different.

"What's all this?" young Jim demanded, coming in from the garage where he had been working on the car. "Company coming?" He eyed the table settings hostilely.

"No company—just family," his mother told him firmly. "Get washed for dinner. And put on a clean shirt and comb your hair. Come Twins, you too. And Marianne, run upstairs and put on a skirt over your shorts and help me with the dessert. We're dining as a family tonight."

"But, Mother—" a chorus of bass and treble howls followed her to the kitchen, but she swung the door shut and winked roguishly at Grandmother. "They won't like it—at first—but we'll try it anyway."

"Good for you! I didn't think

## Just Being

I called to my child, "What are you doing?"

Her suspicious silence challenged me.

"Oh, Mom," she called, "I'm not doing, I'm being,

Can't you just let me BE?"

—Frances Brown



you had the spunk," Grandma smiled.

When Henry came from the garden, he eyed the table in surprise. "Who's coming?" he called. Emily came in bearing the tureen.

"Nobody but us," she averred. "For once we're eating as a family."

"And, Daddy, you have to dress for dinner," Marianne shouted. "Shall I lay out your tux and boiled shirt? Mother is reforming us!"

The faces about the table were glum, but Emily asked Henry to say grace, and the children automatically joined hands around the table and finished it with him just as they had when they were small.

"Seems like old times," Henry smiled, but no one else did. Then Emily launched on a discussion of the new public swimming pool being built near them, and the twins forgot themselves and joined in. After supper they all walked over to see the project. By the time they got home it was growing dark. Emily proposed ping-pong.

"I guess we'll call Billy Rogers and tell him we won't be over tonight," the twins announced after a conference. "It's fun at home." Emily smiled into her handkerchief and gave Henry a triumphant look.

At breakfast on Saturday, Emily tossed out a proposition. "It must be time for morels in the woods, and watercress, and bluebells and trillium. Anybody interested in a picnic today?"

"With all you have to do on a Saturday?" Henry queried.

Emily smiled at Grandma in conspiracy. "I did my grocery shopping yesterday and I got extra nice wieners and hamburgers. I could whip up some potato salad, and if anyone has friends he'd like to ask—we could load the station wagon full and set forth."

"Could I take my fishing tackle?" Jim hazarded tentatively.

"Why not? I shall," Henry assured him.

"But—but—my homework," Marianne began, then admitted,

"Of course there's tonight. And I would love to get some botany specimens."

The twins needed no persuasion, and even Grandma decided to ride along and take her knitting. "I could sit in the car, and I haven't been to the woods since your father died," she told Henry shyly.

"We'll take the folding aluminum chair for you," he offered.

It was easier than she had supposed, Emily told herself. Of course it wouldn't last—there would be other things interfering at times—but even a few times like this would make memories—like the day they had flown the kites last March. That day she had protested that there was housecleaning and baking to be done, but she had dropped everything and they had all gone to a nearby hillside where the boys of the neighborhood had gathered to fly kites. Now every time she remembered it, a feeling of the fresh clean spring wind washed over her and left her breathless. It might stay with them always.

On Sunday there was usually a scramble to get everyone up and off to the various services they attended. Breakfast always had to be kept hot or warmed over several times to accommodate all. Jim and Marianne liked the early service where their youth choirs sang. The twins were hustled off to church school, and then Harry and Emily helped Grandma to the later service. Dinner must be started before they left home. Emily usually slipped into her seat late and breathless, welcoming the quiet respite but quite too spent to really absorb the sermon. Today she tried a new plan.

They all had a leisurely breakfast together on the terrace while Emily explained her plan. "Suppose we meet the twins and all of us attend the late service together today. We can occupy one long family pew. Just once in a while I'd like to have my whole family together beside me at church."

"But what about dinner? Of course we'd all help when we get home."

"Better still," Emily laughed, "I thought we wouldn't try to have a big Sunday dinner—just something simple I can fix after we come home, even if it's later." She looked sternly at Henry who, of course, was thinking of his Sunday afternoon nap.

"Now you're talking sense," Grandma chimed in. "Those big Sunday dinners—in MY day—" But then she bit her lip.

"We probably won't do this every Sunday, but just occasionally," Emily promised.

"You know," young Jim confided, "eating at a family table like this gives us a chance to really talk things over. I've been feeling it didn't matter what we did any more—no one seemed to care at home. You always let us 'decide for ourselves' but now it seems different."

Marianne chimed in, "I know how you feel, Jim. Some of my friends say their parents don't care where they go or what they do, but now that we all sit at the table and do things as a family, and you ask me all about my plans and activities, I feel as if someone does really care. It does make a difference."

That night as they were tucking the twins into bed, Jim and Marianne came and stood at the door, too. "You know, folks, we all seem somehow more like a real family these days," Jim said shyly. "I used to think family-life was old-hat and out-dated, but now I see we all need to work together at it and I like it. I'm going to miss it when I go away to college this fall."

"I like it too," Marianne echoed. "I feel as if there is a new family feeling that we had been missing as we grew up."

"And we don't need to go to the Rogers to have fun any more," the twins declared. "We're all just one big happy family here too."

It might not work all summer, but surely before Jim left they could have many happy times together for him to remember, and for the others, too, as they grew up.



# I Don't Want My Child to Have

## "Every Advantage"

by Marjorie King Garrison

ELEANOR HAD AN interested audience as she was telling about the panic her neighbor endured when a teen-age daughter ran away from home when she was corrected. "And the unjust part of it is," concluded Eleanor, "there was absolutely no reason for the girl to run away. My neighbor had given her *every* advantage."

EVERY ADVANTAGE! I don't want my child to have *every* advantage. Why is it that so often parents who have come up the hard way want to spare their children the struggles and problems that gave character to their own lives? I feel that many of the broken marriages, much of the gambling and get-rich-quick schemes, the selfishness and the misery of the world are due to people who, when they were

children, were made to feel that life revolved around them.

If it had been my daughter, I would have been even more distressed about her return than about her leaving. For she returned, not because she missed her parents or because she was concerned about hurting them; but because when she lied about her age and got a job, she found the going too tough and disagreeable.

There are some things that should be every child's birthright—an atmosphere of love, friends, understanding, family fun, beauty, and purpose. That doesn't mean that love should have a dollar sign, that the friends should be only of a certain class and race, that the understanding should be only by highly

A child who has the advantage of a mother who does everything for him may not have an advantage after all.



—Photo by erb



Youngsters who have the advantage of having all the spending money desired may not have the advantage of a girl or boy who has worked for the spending money.



said psychologists, dentists and doctors, or that the beauty should come only from exclusive shops.

Mrs. Cranston, wife of Dean Cranston of the University of Southern California, spoke to our P.T.A. She said, now that her children are nearing adulthood, the things they talk about most and laugh about are occasions that were most difficult at the time—the trips across the country with the old family car so laden that they felt like the original ‘Grapes of Wrath’; the long New England winters in which they were housebound by the snow; the problems, as a professor’s family, in adjusting to new schools. And, as Mildred Cranston laughingly puts it, “A car and a snowstorm are both confining experiences and we had to draw on our resources as a family.”

People lift their eyebrows when we mention our five children, and often say, “It must be nice to have a big family, but we can’t afford it. Food and clothes and college are so expensive now.” My husband is a teacher, and while teachers in California make an adequate salary you’d hardly consider them in the luxury class. It’s not the five children people can’t afford, but the luxuries they want for themselves and their children.

We hope all our five children graduate from college, but we don’t intend to hand them college on a silver platter. My parents were always regretful that the depression prevented them from paying all our college expenses. There is no need for regret. I feel my mother in particular gave us a much greater gift—

the determination to work toward a goal. When Dad’s salary was cut by two-fifths, he thought college was now impossible for his three children. However, Mother, who had always wished that she had had more than just one year of college, was determined that we three should graduate from college. She expected us to get good enough grades in high school for a scholarship and we did not disappoint her. Months before college started, she was suggesting job possibilities for us. We managed to earn most of our board bill. Mother and Dad were able to help us enough that we had time for some of the fun of college too, but the major responsibility was up to us. I found that most of the people I admired were also helping to pay their way through college.

There is a natural tendency for even the best of parents to want to protect their children from difficulties and problems. I remember how concerned my parents were during the war when they came to Carson City to bring me home for the birth of my second child. They walked into the Children’s Home where I worked one hot August Sunday and found me bending over the huge, awkward ovens in the kitchen. Although when I became pregnant I had changed to the easier (physically) job of matron, I still took the cook’s day off. They could hardly get me back home to California soon enough, and yet the thirteen months I spent in Carson City were some of the happiest of my life. My husband and I often talk of how much closer we are because of our early years of struggle, and how much better prepared we



are to meet the emergencies of life.

One of the strongest arguments for a large family is that numbers offset the tendency of parents to overprotect their children. It takes a tremendous income and a forty-eight-hour day to be able to pamper five children. During the days of large families there were fewer problems with overindulged children than there are now. Organized clubs and recreation centers and nursery schools were not nearly so necessary in the days of large families because there was companionship at home. Parents then were not so ready to admit, "I just can't do anything with my children."

In a large family, major eating problems do not often exist because there isn't time to pamper a squeamish appetite. The child who is too pokey in eating learns that the other children get the biggest cookies or choice fruit. Our children have stared in open-eyed amazement when they have seen some mother at a picnic trying to coax a child to eat a banana. "Imagine," they have confided later, "having to be forced to eat a banana. We usually have to divide ours with someone else."

Not everyone wants a large family, of course. However, some of the techniques of a large family can be used to develop self-reliance and consideration in children rather than the feeling that the world exists for them.

The habit of sharing is important. Our children like to omit dessert one night a week and put the money in a box for Meals for Millions or Goats for Korea. We have tried to stress that millions of

people throughout the world go to bed hungry, and that it is selfish to buy such expensive foods that we don't have money to share with others. Sharing does not come naturally to a baby. It can come only through training and experience and time. If there are not other children in the family to share toys, then the wise parent sees that other children are invited to the home so that the child learns to share.

Every time we hear some speaker say that with modern inventions the child no longer has responsibilities in the home, we chuckle in derision. In a large family, every child *has to help* if the work is to be done and there is time for family fun. When a child is little, it's far easier to do dishes or vacuum or make a cake without "help," but it isn't good for the child. If children haven't been trained from babyhood to help and to take their share of responsibility, they'll never learn it as teen-agers.

Many of the problems with teen-agers come because children have never learned the value of money. Everything they ask for is given them. Each of our children is given an allowance, and out of that allowance the children are expected to buy presents, pay club dues, take their Sunday church school offering and provide for their personal fun. Our three oldest children—eight, eleven, and twelve—do their work well enough that they are hired for odd jobs by the neighbors.

I don't want my child to have *every advantage*. I feel if more emphasis is laid on sharing and responsibility and self-reliance, we will not only have fewer juvenile delinquents, but also a better world.

---

## Hearthstone Plans for 1960

BEGINNING IN JANUARY readers of *Hearthstone* will note several changes which the editors feel will provide further enrichment and study opportunities for the Christian family.

Two of the changes are:

1) Instead of three pages there will be five pages devoted to family worship materials. The first page of the section will furnish guides to the parents in planning worship with their children. The next four pages will supply weekly worship suggestions.

2) Instead of one study article and guide planned for one meeting, each issue except July and August will include two study articles with guides for four meetings. These articles will be usable for parent discussion groups, individual study, church school classes, midweek study groups, family nights, and possibly for other meetings. The following is a list of article topics projected:

January—Your Family and Christian Faith  
Culture in the Family

February—Love at Home and Beyond  
Family and Racial Tensions

March—The Church in Your House in the Church  
The Family Chooses Its Way

April—Special Observances in the Family  
Observing National Family Week

May—Creative Relationships in Family  
Creative Recreation in Family

June—Your Larger Family  
God's Out-of-Doors

July—Creative Use of Freedom

August—If You Can't Get Away!

September—When Are They Good?

Parents and the Schools  
October—Christian Homes and the Fine Arts

Artistic Expression in Family

November—How Long Is Parent-Tenure?

Gratitude and the Family

December—How Christian Is Your Christmas?  
Can the Family Study the Bible?

Titles are subject to "change without notice."





The church can help its families plan their budgets.

—Religious News Service Photo

# “Not as the World Giveth...”

by Mary E. Lockhart

“YOU ARE APPORTIONING entirely too much of your income to church giving,” the mathematics teacher told my daughter in junior high when she showed him her household budget based on a pretended income of \$6,000. She was allowing \$600 for the church. Sally’s decision to make the church contribution a tithe was automatic and she did not even consider that it should be otherwise. “You’ll have to cut down at least half of that,” the teacher went on, “or you will never get

by in real life on that budget.” His words revealed to Sally that he was not a generous church member, and she concluded privately that he knew his mathematics but was lacking in churchmanship.

Two young men from one of the leading banks in the city were invited to our church’s young couples’ group one Sunday evening to talk to us on making a family budget. The majority of the husbands are World War II veterans with growing families. Many are buying homes on loans. Starting

with several theoretical incomes these two young men allotted for a church contribution an amount far below what would be considered adequate proportionate giving. As in the case of Sally’s math teacher, these experts in budget building obviously did not grow up in a home atmosphere of concern for the church’s financial welfare. They were so completely unaware of its importance that they did not even anticipate that in coming to speak to a church group the insignificant amount for



churches in their budgets might be challenged—challenged by some of these veterans who had learned to appreciate churches.

Jack, a young, unmarried man in our church, received a letter two weeks ago from the federal income tax authorities questioning his figures on church contributions during the previous year. "I am giving only what I think I should," he said to me as he came to the church for an affidavit from the church treasurer proving the amount. He is a child from a large family which has had several periods of financial stress. At those times the family received church help. Jack has learned through the years that a church's

itemized lists of how various incomes are subdivided and spent. In several that I have studied the amount allocated to the church is at an absolute minimum. In one budget story it is completely missing.

In one national magazine an article deals with a family having an income of \$25,000. An item of \$150 per year is included for the church. In the same budget \$2,724 is set aside for entertainment and \$516 of this is for baby sitters. This \$150 for the church is six-tenths of ONE per cent of the income.

Another budget in a similar story with an income of \$8,400 shows \$120 per year for the church

now than ever in our history as a nation. Are these picture stories of home finances to be taken as an indication of the set of values people as a whole are placing on the church? Are our young people to read these articles and think that \$10 is adequate to give to the church each month from an \$8,400 salary? Do we want our children to follow the opinions of these writers? Or, are we to tear out these pages when we talk to our children about proportionate giving or mention to them the forty references in the Bible to the tithe or ten per cent?

In the libraries are many books and articles on raising children but I find almost nothing on train-

---

*Have you planned your family budget  
according to your Christian belief?*

---

influence and ability to help persons in crises is entirely dependent on the viewpoint of its members toward giving. But, Jack's generosity was doubted by some taxpayer who just couldn't believe that *anyone* with *that* income would give *that* much.

Are these three illustrations indicative of the world's viewpoint on what portion of one's income a church deserves? Even though allowances for cars, for clubs, and other luxury-necessities have been upped tremendously in the family budgets, some of these experts still dole out \$1 per week or so for the church. That is what Grandpa was giving forty years ago. Furthermore, these days, Grandpa can't even get his weekly haircut with that dollar.

This illiberal attitude toward church giving is almost startling in some of the recent national magazines. You have all seen the articles on family budgets with

or one and four-tenths per cent of the income. Under entertainment this family spends \$120 for baby sitters—the same amount that they give to the church.

Another family with an income of \$11,200 gives \$36 per year to the church or three-tenths of one per cent. On entertainment they spend \$276 and \$96 of this goes for baby sitters.

In the fourth story in a national magazine the income is \$3,955. This family gives \$36 to the church per year, or nine-tenths of one per cent of income. In that home \$84 is spent yearly on baby sitters. A total of \$288 goes for entertainment in this home.

In these four stories four homes are spending \$3,408 for entertainment alone and are giving a total of \$342 to the churches per year. An average of eight-tenths of one per cent of their total incomes.

We read, hear, and know that more people belong to churches

ing children to *give*. Sharing? Yes. Telling us what to do if Johnny won't share his toy truck. But nothing about training Johnny to give one penny to the church if someone gives him a dime.

This lack of emphasis on teaching people to give seems to run, also, into the adult department for I find very few books on the subject. One book deals with ways to raise money for the church but gives no chapter to the primary method of raising money for any church—GIVING. Should not that be considered as the first and foremost method of raising money?

A friend of mine in another denomination called me recently to report that the new organ committee of which she was a member had decided to purchase a specific kind of expensive organ for their church. "Now," she said, "all we have to do is decide how to *raise* the money to *pay* for it." I chuckled all afternoon remember-





Children, as well as adults, must learn the art of Christian giving. The weekly allowance is a good place to begin.

ing her surprised tone when I suggested, "Well, you might all try giving it."

On the optimistic side of this whole thing are the hundreds and hundreds of people who are faithfully giving a goodly proportionate share of their incomes to their churches. With more new church buildings than ever before this fact simply must follow. So, it is these people whom we must point out to our children for observation. By observation and imitation children learn. As children grow older, classes in budget making should be held in Sunday church school as well as in the junior high so that this very subject of church giving can be threshed out on its own ground. One of the most inspiring bits of personal bookkeeping I ever saw was kept by a child in our

church who had made a \$25 pledge to our new building fund. She took ten per cent of every babysitting job, ten per cent of every bit of pay work she did, and even a dime from every dollar she received for "A's" on her grade-card. Her pledge was one-sixth of that of the man with the \$25,000 income!

Again, in the young married people's classes the family budget and proportionate giving can be discussed amiably about once a year. In our own church within the month we will be having an every-member canvass for pledges for the new year. Ours is a program demanding \$100,000 from approximately 400 family units. As church members we must decide what role our church is to play in the world. With its large

budget and willing members a church accomplishes its role. Hence, the success of a church depends on every individual pledger conscientiously deciding what his share shall be.

Our children are quick to discern whether our church is a success or a run-down proposition. They will measure their giving as adults by what they have seen us give. Do we dare let the churches of the next generation down? Will our children look back at our present-day church and family budgets and ask,

"Is that what they gave to the church that year and yet spent \$2500 for a new car?" "And just think, Dad was an elder!"

Would you dare to have your family budget published in the church bulletin?



# Fun

## for the

## Thanksgiving

## Dinner Party

DO YOU GET KIND OF CARRIED AWAY by Thanksgiving hospitality? Do you think—oh, well, I'll just roast a turkey and make a couple of pies—there's nothing involved about that. Then you start inviting guests. It's only after the flurry of asking folks, and getting their acceptances, that you start to worry about how you're going to entertain them in the intervals when they are not eating.

Worry no more. Use these games in which everyone, from Junior to Grandma, can participate and your party is made.

For the period when guests are arriving intermittently, use this fill-in game. Prepare beforehand, slips of paper, with each slip bearing the name of a person or subject associated with Thanksgiving. As each guest arrives, pin one of these slips to his back. Then he circulates about the room asking questions of everyone present, trying to discover what Thanksgiving person or symbol he represents. His questions can be answered by only "yes," "no," or "I don't know." The significance of this stunt is that the contestants cannot be seated until they have run down their Thanksgiving



identity (making an exception of oldsters, of course). Here are suggestions for the slips: PILGRIM, PLYMOUTH ROCK, MAYFLOWER, JOHN ALDEN, PRISCILLA, MILES STAN-  
DISH, GOVERNOR BRADFORD, INDIAN, TURKEY, CRANBERRY SAUCE, PUMPKIN PIE, MINCE PIE, STUFFING, MASHED POTATO, GRAVY, SQUASH.

Should the turkey require more browning and dinner must wait, put everyone to work piecing a turkey puzzle. Make the puzzles beforehand by drawing turkeys on brown construction paper (a turkey cookie cutter makes a fine pattern). Cut each turkey into ten pieces and place the bits in an envelope. Each guest now receives one of these envelopes and at the starting signal starts work on his individual puzzle. The host registers the time it takes each contestant to assemble his puzzle and when the turkeys are finished a small prize is given to the speediest assembler.

While the dishes are being removed between courses, amuse the guests with this contest. The host starts the fun by announcing an article of food. The guest at his

right must mention another food whose name starts with the last letter of the first food. The mentioned food might be PIE, so the second player mentions EGG-PLANT, the third player uses TURKEY, and so on, around the table. There can be no repeats, and if a guest is unable to name a new food he must fold his arms to show he has been disqualified. This game may be halted at any time. The disqualified players are penalized after the meal by performing forfeits decided upon by the other guests.

After a Thanksgiving dinner, guests are often more stuffed than was the turkey. To prevent their falling into a state of coma from overeating, keep them on their feet and moving about with this game. Distribute paper and pencils to the players and instruct them to write the word THANKSGIVING down the left side of the paper. At the starting signal they tour the living room, looking for articles whose names start with the letters in the word THANKSGIVING. For example, by "T" a player could write, TABLE, TELEVISION, TIMEPIECE, TACK, THERMOMETER. At the end of ten minutes, the lists

are checked and the guest who listed the most articles wins a prize.

Now, divide the guests into two lines, facing each other. Each player receives a quarter section of newspaper, and at the starting signal holds the paper behind his back and tears out a turkey. This contest has to be seen to be appreciated for the facial expressions and behind-the-back contortions are laughable. That's why the lines must face each other so the contestants can watch each others' maneuvers as they work. When everyone has finished, the turkeys are displayed and a vote taken to determine the best-looking bird, which wins for its creator a prize.

For a final game, place a large calendar page of November on the floor. Each guest in turn stands on a line about eight feet from the calendar and blows five fluffy feathers, one at a time, from the palm of his hand, trying to land them on Thanksgiving's date. The contestant who gets the most feathers on this red-letter day wins a prize.

Flavor your dinner party with fun and make it a joyful Thanksgiving.

by Erma Reynolds



# Worship in the Family

## with Children

### To Use with Younger Children

#### Thanksgiving Day!

The family was excited! Grandmother and Grandfather were coming to spend the winter. All the older children were talking at once.

"Remember how Grandfather likes to play games? He will be fun to have here when the days are so bad we can't go outside," one said.

"Yes," another said, "but remember how he likes to go for walks, too. He will be fun to have here when the weather is good."

"But Grandmother is the one to tell stories!" they all agreed.

Ben was too little to remember either Grandmother or Grandfather. So he felt left out in all the talk about their coming. "When will Grandmother and Grandfather come?" he asked.

"On Thanksgiving Day," Mother said.

So, whenever the family got to talking about the visit, Ben would begin to sing, "Thanksgiving Day! Thanksgiving Day!"

When the family was busy getting the guest room ready for Grandmother and Grandfather, Ben sang, "Thanksgiving Day! Thanksgiving Day!"

Sally stood watching Ben as he sang. "Mother, why does he sing that all the time?" she asked.

"It's his way of saying how glad he is that Grandmother and Grandfather are coming," Mother answered. "He doesn't know any stories about them as you older children do."

One day Ben sang, "Thanksgiving Day! Thanksgiving Day!" Then he sat still a long time, thinking. "Mother," he asked, "what is Thanksgiving Day?"

"Why it's when we have a big turkey dinner," big brother said.

"It's when we have mince pie," big sister said.

"It's when we have a holiday from school," second sister said.

"Is that all it is?" Father asked.

Everyone was quiet, thinking. "Oh," big brother said after a while, "it's the time we go to church when it isn't Sunday." Then there was quiet again.

"It's all that, and more," Mother said, with a smile. "It is the time when we think about all the good and happy things we enjoy, and when we say a big 'thank you' to God for them. Of course, we are glad, every day, for God's care; but on Thanksgiving Day, we're especially glad!"

"Thanksgiving Day!" Ben sang. The family felt like singing, too.

#### Theme for November:

### God's Good Gifts

#### A Word to Parents

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *The Secret Place*, you may find that some of the materials fit into the meditations in that booklet.

#### A Bible Poem

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God upon the lyre!  
He covers the heavens with clouds,  
he prepares rain for the earth,  
he makes grass grow upon the hills.  
He gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens which cry.  
But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

—Psalm 147:7-9, 11.

—Gedde Harmon





# To Use with Older Children

## A Thanksgiving Song

Thanksgiving is a time of expressing the gratitude which we feel. Many persons think about blessings that they have, and some are able to say what they think. Others find it difficult to put into words the way they really feel. So, on Thanksgiving Day they try to say the things they may have felt during the entire year.

Sometimes those who find it hard to express their thanks can use the words of others to say what they feel. A poem or a hymn may fit their feelings so well that it truly can be an expression of gratitude. The hymn printed on this page has been that for many persons. It may be that for you.

This hymn was written by William Walsham How, a British clergyman. Mr. How was a friendly man who loved God. Next to God, he loved people. He always was ready to help anyone, whatever his trouble. No one was too poor to be helped by him. The sad were cheered. The happy caused him, too, to rejoice. He spent his entire life in helping others. After he had finished his education and had become an assistant to the minister of a church, he received appointments to more and more responsible positions.

Mr. How was for thirteen years the minister of a pleasant farming village called Whittington. Some of you know about Dick Whittington, who became Lord Mayor of London. He probably was born in the same Whittington where Mr. How was the minister. It was during the years he spent as minister of the church there that Mr. How wrote all of his hymns. He wrote them to help his people. He felt that hymns should have words simple enough that they could be understood by everyone. They should be sincere and earnest. They should express rever-

ence for God, the great loving Giver of all good things. They should be praise for God's loving care and his good plans for all his people.

When Mr. How wrote this hymn, it was used when the offering was received. Today it is used at other times, as well. While it does help one to think of the fact that all good things come from God and that God trusts people with his good gifts, it contains the idea of thankfulness, too.

Finally Mr. How became bishop of the slum section of East London. He refused several appointments that offered more prestige and money. His purpose still was to help people. He must have known and loved and lived by these words:

"Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from thee, and thou rulest over all. In thy hand are power and might; and in thy hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank thee, our God, and praise thy glorious name.

". . . For all things come from thee, and of thy own have we given thee."

1 Chronicles 29:11-14.

These verses, written by David, King of Israel, tell us how he felt. He had wealth, honor, glory, and material blessings, but he recognized that all of it came from God.

This is how we should feel on Thanksgiving Day, and, more than that, on every day of the year.

## We Give Thee But Thine Own

SCHUMANN. S. M.

1. We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be:  
2. May we Thy boun-ties thus As stew-ards true re-ceive,

All that we have is Thine a-lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
And glad-ly, as Thou bless-est us, To Thee our first fruits give. A-MEN.



# For Family Worship

## Beautiful Morning

The morning is so bright and new,  
So gaily trimmed with sparkling dew,  
I think before I go to play  
I'd like to bow my head and pray;  
I'd like to say to God that He  
Has given happiness to me.  
The earth, the sky, the shining sun  
Are gifts from God for every one.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson

## Quiet Time

Before I go to bed at night  
I lift my face in prayer.  
I fold my hands, and close my eyes,  
And as I'm kneeling there  
I'm certain God is listening  
To every word I say;  
And oh, I feel so warm and safe,  
When I kneel down to pray.

—Lois Clement

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is a glad happy time,  
With bright colored fruits picked from orchard and  
vine;

With chickens or turkeys or other good things  
That the harvesting season so surely brings!  
And family and friends and all those so dear,  
To spend time together come from far and from near.  
But back of these blessings so deep and so true  
Is the dear love of God and his good plans for you.

—Jessie B. Carlson

—Gedge Harmon



**Worship Center:** A worship center in your home, this month, would help to establish the theme, "God's Good Gifts." Children in the family may be encouraged to use their own ideas about arrangement and to keep the center fresh and attractive. An arrangement of fruits or vegetables would be attractive; or fall flowers, leaves, or berries would help to establish the idea of the theme. The Bible may be open to the "Call to Worship" or to Psalm 117; 118:1-4; 136; or to any other favorite passage of praise and thanksgiving.

## Call to Worship:

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to thy name, O Most High;  
to declare thy steadfast love in the morning,  
and thy faithfulness by night,  
to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.

For thou, O LORD, hast made me glad by thy work;  
at the work of thy hands I sing for joy.

—Psalm 92:1-2.

**Song:** Use the song printed on page 19 or choose from the following: "Our Work," primary pupil's book, year two, fall quarter, page 20; "Oh Give Thanks Unto the Lord," primary pupil's book, year three, fall, page 22; "All People That on Earth Do Dwell," junior pupil's book, year one, fall, page 29

**Poem:** Use one of the poems printed on this page or choose from the following: primary pupil's book, year one, fall, "Can You?" page 28, "We Thank Thee, Father," page 31; "This Earth of Ours," primary pupil's book, year two, fall, page 22; "Hymn of Thanksgiving," junior pupil's book, year one, fall, page 34.

**Story:** If you have young children in your family, use the story on page 18. For older children, use the hymn story on page 19 or choose from the following in the primary pupils' books: year one, fall, "The Time of Harvest," page 26, "The Angelus," page 29; year two, fall, "The Second-Year Class Celebrates," page 17, "Our Father's World," page 21, "The Sharing Thanksgiving," page 23.

**Song:** Choose another from the list above.

**Meditation:** Plan your own meditation based upon the theme, the "Call to Worship," or upon one of the passages of Scripture suggested in "Worship Center." If your children are old enough to go to public school, they may have had study or worship experiences in the church school that they would be willing to share. These may be the bases for the meditation. If you have several children, and all are willing to share in this way, they may be responsible for the meditation thought on successive days, or for the weeks during November, if you have group worship in your home only weekly.

**Prayer:** Plan your own prayer, or pray, Dear God, for all your good gifts, we give thanks. Amen.



# The Little Yellow Pumpkin

by Ina E. Lindsley

IT WAS THE DAY before Thanksgiving. The children were carrying baskets with surprises hidden inside.

At the foot of Harlow Hill they stopped to rest a minute. Margaret and Dean set down the larger basket that had been filled to the brim with Thanksgiving good things.

Betty Lou, who was the youngest, peeked under the cover of her little basket with a giggle. She was carrying a surprise for Grandpa Whitman. It would be fun, she thought, to watch Grandpa Whitman discover what they had brought him for Thanksgiving. "He will never guess what it is," she laughed.

"Let's see," said Margaret who was the oldest, "we have taken the popcorn balls to the Watson children and—"

"And weren't they glad?" put in Betty Lou while Margaret was counting over the places they still had to go with Thanksgiving surprises. "Jimmy and Jean did not know what was hiding under the paper. And how they laughed when they peaked under and found the pink and white popcorn balls."

"We still have the cookies and mincemeat to take to Mrs. Carter," planned Margaret.

"You and Betty Lou can take that while I carry Grandpa Whitman's basket up the hill," suggested Dean with a teasing twinkle in his eyes.

Betty Lou shook her head stoutly. "It will be the most fun to give Grandpa Whitman his surprise," she said. The little girl was remembering that Grandpa Whitman sometimes had stories to tell when they took something to him.

Margaret did not want to miss going up the hill with Grandpa Whitman's basket either. "We will all go together," she decided finally.

There was a big tree halfway up the long hill. The children stopped there to rest.

While they were resting a minute or two, Betty Lou was twisting back and forth to try to see something through the trees.

"Oh, I spy!" she cried suddenly. She had caught a glimpse of the little cottage at the top of the hill where Grandpa Whitman lived alone with a housekeeper.

"Let's hurry," called Betty Lou, starting on ahead of the

(Continued on page 28)



—Art FitzSimmons

From *Storyland*, November 20, 1955.  
Used by permission.



# Gifts that last

by Bess Hibarger

"We had a visitor in our class this morning," announced Peg Mallory. "She wore the neatest uniform and the cutest little trick of a cap with BABS on it, and she wasn't much bigger than me—"

"Bigger than I," corrected Mother Mallory, who was pleased by the starshine in Peg's eyes. "Sorry to interrupt."

"Thank you, Mother," said Peg, who was ten and small for her age. Peg's account of the visitor and her mother's interruption were parts of their mutual-helpfulness game.

"She was fun," Peg went on. "She said, 'Hi, Kiddie-dicks. You know that Christmas is just around the corner. How would you like to give a Christmas gift that would last forever?' She set some little pennants on our teacher's desk with slogans: WAKE UP and READ! and FOR A BETTER-READ, BETTER-INFORMED AMERICA. She made me really want to be a bookworm!"

Mother Mallory laughed and then she said, "A Christmas gift that would last forever! Now that sounds wonderful! Ron's space ship—it was expensive, too—is scattered all over the place; Father has worn out his last year's ties; Sue needs another sweater this year; I have used practically all the thread you gave me in that lovely sewing kit. What did your visitor say about a Christmas gift that would last forever?"

"She said that our first Christmas gift was a forever-gift: our Heavenly Father giving his Son whose love and guidance go on for always and that Dr. Luke gave us a forever-gift when he wrote the Christmas story. She said we wouldn't know anything about the angels, the shepherds, the babe in swaddling clothes, and the manger if Dr. Luke hadn't been a kind of roving reporter. She thinks he interviewed Mary and got the whole story of Jesus' birth and that he wrote the book called Luke for a dear friend of his and she says that many people think it is the most beautiful book in the whole world."

That was a pretty long speech for a small girl and Mother Mallory's eyes were shining now.

"Peg, dear, you must have been a very good listener. You have given me some wonderful ideas. How do you suppose the Mallory's would like to have a book Christmas?"

"I took some notes, Mother," said Peg, proudly, "and I think it would be wonderful to have a book Christmas. I've started a list of books I want. I'd love to own *Make Way for Ducklings*. I've read it a number of times. It's about Michael, a kind-hearted policeman who stopped all the traffic on a Boston street to let a mother duck and her little ones get across. When I read it I feel all warm inside. I'd like to reach out to a shelf in my room and read it whenever I want to feel that way. I'd like to have all the books Dr. Seuss has written—he's so funny. And I'd like my own copy of *Little Women*. I cry when I read about Beth. Oh, how I love that March family! They are so loyal and so fond of each other. And I hope to meet a man some day like Larry Lawrence."

Peg was helping her mother clear up after the Sunday dinner. The house was very quiet. Sue and Ron were having dinner out with school chums. Father Mallory was watching his favorite TV program.

"What else do you have in your notes?" asked Mother Mallory.

"Oh, I haven't even begun on my notes!" exclaimed Peg. "Excuse me a moment, please."

"Of course, dear," replied her mother, surprised. "I'll be in the den... There we can talk without disturbing Father. But I think you and I are going to have a Big, Big Christmas Secret."

Peg was back in a jiffy with her tiny notebook and her pencil.

"I didn't tell you all about our visitor's name, BABS. She wears it on her cap to remind us all that the letters stand for a very special slogan:

Study Article and Guide for Parents' Groups



You will want to read the author's  
helpful suggestions on planning  
BOOKS for CHRISTMAS gifts

—A. Devaney, Inc. N. Y.

BOOKS ARE BRIDGES. Here are the things she told us to write down:

Librarians are very helpful persons. Get acquainted with a librarian and ask him or her what you want to know. Get acquainted with BOOK LISTS. Very important.

If there is a boy in your family, ask to see the Junior Book Award Lists. They are revised each year and the hundreds of boys who belong to boys' book clubs all over America tell which books they like best and why. This is how the committees decide which book is most popular with boys. Here is what some boys wrote about *So'm I*, the story of a knock-kneed and bow-legged colt that was always stretching the truth about what he could do. One boy wrote: "It made me laugh. Taught me not to make fun of the deformities of others." Another: "I like the funny pictures. I laughed all through the book." Another wrote: "How could you be sad after reading this book? Very good." And one wrote just three words: "Oh, so funny!"

BABS said: "Ask your parents to buy you a Caldecott Medal or a Newbery Medal Award book. Read as many of them as you can. They are extra special books and the awards are given each year in March at a big banquet of the American Library Association. Caldecott books have more pictures. Raymond Caldecott wrote humorous books for children and drew exquisite pictures to illustrate them. John Newbery is called the 'Father of Children's Books."

"Set a goal: How many books will you read each week or each month or each year.

"Keep a loose-leaf notebook record of Books I've Read and Books I Want to Read. Date each book on this record as you read it and on a special page write comments—why you liked it or didn't.

"Read something from the Bible every day. Find out if your church library has books *about* the Bible, for people your age.

"Be smart. Start a home library.



Plan to purchase some books that the family will enjoy reading together.

"Remember: Books Are Bridges across rivers of hate, greed, and need. They are also teachers, friends, vacations, and books are fun."

At this point the doorbell rang.

"Oh, Mother, that's Anne Laird. She's bringing her book, *The Hundred Dresses*, and we're reading it aloud together. It's such fun. Wanda Petronski is a little Polish girl who wears the same old faded blue dress to school every day. It is so clean and neat—perfectly washed and ironed—but she says she has a hundred dresses in her closet. It's a shame the way the kids tease her. I can hardly wait until the finish."

"Run along, Peg. You've helped me much more than you know," and Mother Mallory smiled at the



happy thoughts ranging themselves in order for her Christmas plans. A notebook, the telephone directory, and a Quiet Time for guidance—she didn't do things by halves. Soon there was a fresh unique plan for Monday and the first thing on the agenda was: Get acquainted with a librarian. A quite large city library was about ten miles away and she knew a woman who worked there. She would be there in the morning when the door opened. She called this friend who told her what she wanted to know.

Her friend also introduced her to the head librarian to whom Mrs. Mallory explained her need. She met the reference and children's librarians and her heart sang as she read the legends in beautiful bright gold

letters on the walls of the delivery room over the catalog cards. On the right: "All that mankind has done, thought, gained, or been is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of a book"—Thomas Carlyle. On the left: "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends: They are the most accessible and wisest of counselors and the most patient of teachers"—Charles W. Eliot.

She thought of George Bernard Shaw's statement: "Ignorance, ignorance, ignorance everywhere; that is what is wrong with us, what defeats our good intentions every time," and of H. G. Wells and his truism: "Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe." All this wealth of knowledge

## For: "Gifts that Last"

# Study Guide



### I. Leader's Preparation

As the leader, a wonderful privilege awaits you! You are to inspire your group with the idea that there is no substitute for a good book and that the time for reading is NOW. Someone will read a book who might never have read that same book. Who knows? It may be the turning point of his or her life! Dr. Frank Laubach, in his literacy work, has a slogan: Each One Teach One. So the first thing you need is an

1) *Aim.* Read the article carefully and let it suggest ideas for your aim. The Mallory's are going to have a Book Christmas. Perhaps you can inspire every home that you know to do the same. You may wish to dramatize this home scene. Also Mrs. Mallory at the library. Next you need a plan and—

2) *Ammunition.* There is so much to use that it may seem harder to know what to rule out than what to rule in: Posters, book lists, people, participation. A good plan means that every detail is visualized in advance with your aim, backed by your will to put every best effort into it to bring it about. You will need to select the most comfortable and attractive place available, allow for plenty of time, get as many to participate as possible, and select people who are pacemakers. Pacemakers are people who believe in good causes and are always ready to help a good cause along. Every community has some of these dynamic people. Find some of them and persuade them to share their gifts of persuasion and zeal.

3) *Ardo.* The third need is a lively

spirit of accomplishment. Get everyone you meet stirred with a deep interest in reading good books. You may have young friends who will enjoy helping you make posters or slogans with mimeographs and others who will help distribute them. The church bulletin may carry an announcement or some questions as:

What was the last book you read?

Why did you read it?

What is your favorite book? Why do you like it?

Who is your favorite author? Why?

When everyone gets to thinking and talking about good books, the announcement of your meeting should bring many who are eager to know more or to share what they think is worth passing on.

### II. Conducting the Meeting

Since the aim of your meeting will give it direction, here are a number of possibilities that you may wish to consider. Any one of these, if well planned and conducted with zeal, will give rich rewards.

A. Theme: Christmas Books That Last Forever

Mode of operation: Panel or Symposium

The symposium is more formal. Have a few experts on it if possible: a librarian to tell of guidance helps to great books; a book-loving mother to tell how her family makes a heart-and-mind development time for reading; a local teacher to discuss how home reading helps children at school; a book-

loving child to tell of a favorite book and why (as Why I Like *Armed With Courage*). Open the meeting with prayer, limit speakers to ten minutes, follow with forum of questions if desired and close with song "I Love to Tell the Story."

B. Theme: The Mallory's Plan a Book Christmas

Dramatize the story of Peg and her mother: Act I—Peg Meets BABS; Act II—Mother Mallory meets a Friendly Librarian; Act III—Mother Mallory's Dream. Spirit of Christmas appears with helpers each bringing a different kind of BEST book and pleading its value. This can be as elaborate and as beautiful as you wish—or quite effective in simplicity.

C. Theme: How to Buy Books for Christmas

This entire program may be divided among a number of people who will acquaint themselves with book lists and explain them. It may include a role-playing scene in which Raymond Caldecott and John Newbery, "Father of Children's Books," meet and discuss their joy about the Caldecott and Newbery Award books. By all means Nancy Larrick's wonderful guide to parents on children's reading should be introduced—a good task for the leader.

### III. Questions for Discussion

The following perennially interesting questions may be used in the open forum following a symposium or a panel meeting. The meeting may be devoted entirely to the questions and may end with an appropriate film.

1. Has TV hurt the sale of books? (Have someone report on Bennett Cerf's "Books Are Here to Stay" in *Saturday Evening Post*, March 22, 1958.

2. What can be done about the Comic Book Menace?

3. How are you solving the Horror Show problem?

4. What books have marked turning points in your life? How and why?

5. Why should every child read a

(Continued on page 30)

just for the mere effort of seeking, she thought as she browsed through books of devotion, getting-to-know-you biographies of the great, travel, history, hobbies, drama, fiction, adventure.

She checked out the Mahoney-Whitney volume which tells all about the Caldecott and Newbery Awards and finally left the library with a warm glow in her heart, a mounting vision, and a handful of book lists to help her fulfill her best-ever-Christmas Dream.

**Bibliography**

*\*The Children's Bookshelf.* A booklist for parents. U. S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., 30¢.

*\*\*Growing Up With Books.* R. R. Bowker. New York City. 200 books which every child should have a chance to read and enjoy.

*\*\*\*A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading.* For parents and teachers of Boys and Girls under thirteen. Nancy Larrick. Paper-bound edition. Pocket Books, Inc. Mail Service Department, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, N. Y. 35¢ plus 5¢ per copy for handling and mailing.

*\*\*\*\*Children's Books* (for \$1.25 or less). Association Childhood Education International, 1200 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington 5, D. C., 75¢

**BIBLEGRAM**

*by Hilda E. Allen*

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicated word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

- A Lights at the rear end of a car--  
65 11 45 83
- B Get out of sight -----  
28 57 56 40
- C Sleighing time -----  
1 49 32 89 51 21
- D The tomb of a Saint -----  
23 2 43 64 53 3
- E Duplicate brother or sister -----  
69 75 52 26
- F Kind of low stool for the feet--  
9 42 88 62
- G Hand which is raised when you swear to tell the truth -----  
59 25 54 66 78
- H Kind of birthday mentioned in a popular song -----  
37 8 15 46 19
- I Grandfather probably had one for his watch -----  
79 86 48 5 4
- J Place for permanents -----  
76 70 31 74
- K Broke into a fit of rage or anger  
82 68 18 30 13
- L Person who does not speak -----  
91 60 17 29

M	Man of extraordinary size -----	33	14	73	81	24
N	This one is trapped by cheese ---	7	38	22	50	72
O	Not so good -----	36	90	10	61	84
P	To serve persons at table -----	41	77	12	27	
Q	Something for a thirsty one ----	63	6	20	92	47
R	This for a hungry one -----	71	34	55	87	
S	Kind of a floor mop -----	44	16	39	58	
T	Fruit-flavored drink -----	85	67	35	80	

(Solution on page 28)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92				



# Christmas Card Tricks

## Hints on Personalizing Christmas Greetings

by Frances Dunlap Heron

AMID THE HOUSEHOLD'S Christmas Eve flurry of gluing on a wise man's arm for the mantel crèche, tying packages, and cooking giblets for turkey stuffing, a weary postman leaves the third delivery of greeting cards for the day. Envelopes are discarded hastily—no time to read verses, just note names of senders.

Bill and Anne—now who are they? Oh-oh, an expensive folder from the Morses. They didn't send one last year, so we took them off our list this year. Still no word from the Rumleys, who probably thought that we dropped them last year, not knowing that we didn't send any cards because the children had flu. After they receive one from us this year, they'll probably restore us next year, so we'd better leave them on our list.

What a cute picture of Marcia's boys! Why didn't Eula May, for old sorority sisters' sake, write a note at the end of her printed name! Cousin Ed, though, he's done it again, as usual disregarded postal regulations and penned a message in a third-class unsealed envelope.

Gracious, a four-page mimeographed report, both sides of the paper, from the Eckmeyers. "Eckmeyer Etchings." Who would wade through that at this hour? Why don't they stay on one sheet?

Breathless though this scene may leave us even in retrospect, it does not warrant any general indictment of the custom of exchanging Christmas cards. As a token of thoughtfulness, good will, affection, as a reminder of long-ago ties, of the good news of the Nativity, and of the joy that lives in families today, Christmas cards and letters have become a significant part of our Yuletide celebration. Some

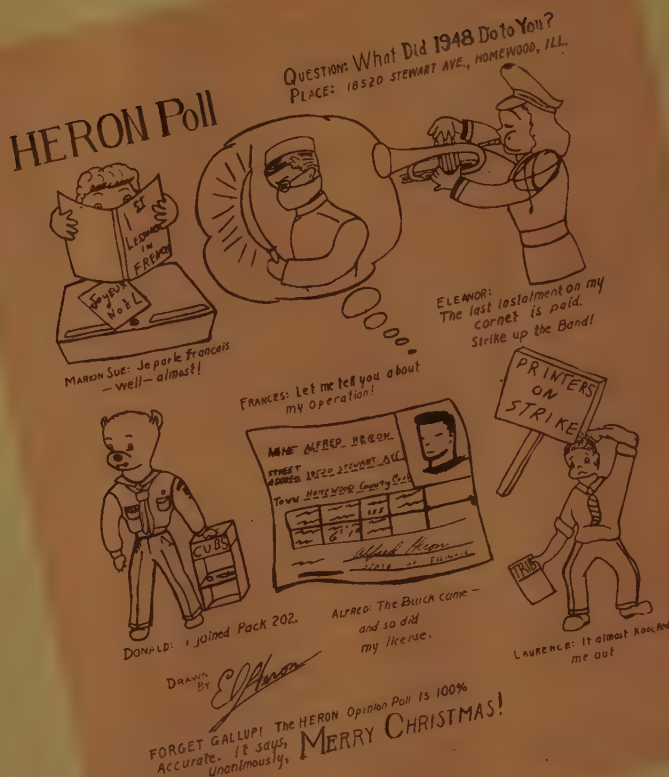
One page can tell the story of the year's events.

encouraging signs are apparent. There seems to be a decrease (probably abetted by increased postage) in broadcasting "heartiest holiday wishes" to all nodding acquaintances. The religious theme, both in art illustration and in message, grows yearly. The glistening reproductions of candles, bells, trees, and the Bethlehem stable make many Christmas cards beautiful living-room decorations.

The personalized element entered several years ago with the inclusion of a photograph of the sender's children or whole family. Faraway friends and relatives es-

pecially enjoy noting the growth of children in whom they are interested. The boys and girls, in turn, like to see themselves thus centered in the observance of Christmas. Newest development is the mimeographed or printed family newsletter, sometimes combined with a picture. It replaces a formalized greeting with conversational warmth. The preparation can be a unifying family project.

With all these positive trends, however, suggestions are still in order to justify further the December load imposed on postmen. Hence, while the cream of my family's most recent card collec-



tion yet adorns our piano top, I am moved to advance some recommendations that a number of my friends and I agree are worthy of consideration.

First of all, let us master a few simple tricks of foresight that will greatly enhance appreciation of the cards we send:

All year keep track of deaths and changes in address and in marital status. A manila folder or a large envelope to catch such notations means that by December first your mailing list can be brought up to date readily. It is distressing to an elderly widower to be so merely a name on your list that three years after the death of his wife, he is still getting cards addressed to "Mr. and Mrs." For years I was irritated each Christmas to receive from an old school-

ever, may be equally insufficient. "The Andersons" can really produce speculation! Be specific about who you are. Identify the individuals in family pictures.

Let there be more personal handwritten notes on cards. From childhood playmates, third cousins, former neighbors and co-workers, with whom regular correspondence is not feasible, a dozen lines of condensed news rekindle memory and friendship.

Make time for this note-writing with an early start on obtaining cards and compiling the mailing list. Mail early, not only to help the post office, but to give recipients the opportunity to appreciate your message before the final Christmas rush. Mulling over cards in the period of happy anticipation is so much pleasanter

cal slogan of that year. The failure of the Gallup Poll in 1948 prompted the "Heron Poll," in which all of us revealed our interests. Our daughter drew humorous illustrations. In 1950 our newly acquired cocker spaniel dictated and signed the letter with "His (paw) Mark." In 1952 a small card bearing a heron, which we use as our symbol, stated that whereas for Sue, Al and Fran, college tuition was due, it was resolved that our good wishes must be left to intuition. Another year, our Heron card carried a jingle:

"To you, our flock wishes  
The Season's Best,  
A slough of fine fishes,  
A feathery nest!"

Christmases since 1953 we have issued the *Heron Chronicle*, a miniature newspaper front page, five and seven-eighths by eight and one-fourth inches, announcing college graduations, weddings, and in 1958 presenting a picture of our first

(Continued on page 30)



WHEREAS: Christmas is coming; and WHEREAS, just after Christmas, tuition time comes at Drake University in Des Moines, where Marion Sue is a junior in radio-journalism; and WHEREAS, just after Christmas, tuition time comes at the State University of Iowa, where Al is a junior in commerce; and WHEREAS, just after Christmas, tuition time comes at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, where Fran is a freshman in art; and WHEREAS, just after Christmas, graduation time will loom in sight at Flossmoor School, where Donald is in the eighth grade;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the HERONS of HOMEWOOD, in Family Council assembled, that the 1952 transmittance of Christmas good wishes be left—pending remittance of this tuition—to the intuition of friends and relatives; and that a copy of this resolution be dispatched to all persons concerned.

Adopt a family symbol . . . .

or a platform →

mate a card directed to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Heron, the name of our son, when our annual greeting to said schoolmate clearly designated the head of our house as Laurence.

Be sure, therefore, that names and addresses are accurate. Where there is doubt, send the card first class with return address.

Whether you sign your card in ink or have your name printed, include your surname. A mere "Bill and Anne" may mean to some recipients any one of four couples. On the other hand, we may have forgotten the first names of that nice couple who rented the cottage next to us at the lake, but Bill and Anne Cunningham will click. The surname alone, how-

than having to shove them aside on December 23 and 24, to be scanned a week later in the atmosphere of post-Christmas turkey hash.

The devising of more and more original cards and letters pleases my family, for whom the practice extends back twenty years. Thus we have kept friends of our youth and relatives, all living at a distance, informed on the growth of our four children and on our family activities. Occasionally, when the children were younger, we wove our greeting around a snapshot or a printed picture, but more often we capitalized on a timely theme. In 1944 each of us came out on a "platform," reminiscent of the "time for a change" politi-

## THE HERON PLATFORM

The HERON slate of electors is pledged under the unit rule to cast a solid bloc of votes for

## A Merry Christmas

to you, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Moreover, each nominee on the slate points with pride to his individual plank, on which he stands staunch as the Rock of Gibraltar, forever loyal to that peerless leader, that world-renowned and snow-plumed Knight of the North . . . Santa Claus!

And here's the slate:

- ☒ LAURENCE TUNSTALL HERON  
Nobody asked for it, but here it is, with the mercury close to zero . . . and that's another reason why it's time for a change!
- ☒ FRANCES DUNLAP HERON  
I oppose envelopes with windows as bad for morale in war time.
- ☒ MARION SUE HERON  
Arithmetic must be abolished!
- ☒ ALFRED TUNSTALL HERON  
I'm on record as opposed to short pants for boys 11 years old.
- ☒ ELEANOR FRANCES HERON  
Bed time for 9 year olds must be made to run from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m.
- ☒ DONALD MERIWETHER HERON  
Freedom of the skies for Santa Claus! He's indispensable!

And for you, we declare unalterably our support of the

1945th TERM!



## A Richer Thanksgiving

(Continued from page 3)

and Mother had learned together. Father pretended he was the President and read the official proclamation that said this was really and truly Thanksgiving Day for the whole nation. The fourth grader showed a picture of the Pilgrim Fathers he had painted in school. The seventh grader brought in his collection of gourds and dried seed pods and explained their part in the autumn scheme. There was a short silence while the family bowed their heads to think prayerfully about the good things that God had brought into their lives that year.

Soon it was time for Mother and the girls to serve dessert, always extra pretty and delicious on this occasion. Afterwards, all joined hands and Father concluded the meal and its program with a prayer that traditionally belonged to this family's Thanksgiving.

The day was now complete. Everyone felt there had been more than just a big, holiday meal. Thanksgiving had really happened at home.

We conclude that the family nurtures the spirit of Thanksgiving. Although the past provides the roots and the present determines national legal status, it is in the privacy of the home, where a belief in God's mercy is probably felt the strongest, that Thanksgiving Day reaches its highest meaning.

### Additional ideas and materials for a family Thanksgiving service:

1. Keep a Thanksgiving scrapbook and paste in it from year to year favorite poems, stories, pictures, and newspaper and magazine articles about the holiday. Use it for source materials in planning programs and, also, to provide pleasure and instruction during the season.

2. Invite someone outside the family to share the day and meal with you. This might be a student far from home, a new family in the neighborhood or church, a teacher stranded in town during the holidays, an elderly couple weary of hotel meals.

3. Attend the community or church Thanksgiving service as a family group. Mother, this is your hurdle. Let dinner wait.

4. Plan a Thanksgiving gift for someone else, in the name of the family. A simple basket of colorful flowers and leaves sent to a shut-in; a favorite picture book, bought and presented to the church library; a package of mittens (one pair from each member of the family) sent to warm the hands of needy children. These are a few ways to "give something away on Thanksgiving Day."

5. Memorize a different song or reading each year and repeat it together at the table.

The following are suitable:

### Hymns and songs:

Netherland folk song: We Gather Together

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  
For the Beauty of the Earth  
We Give Thee But Thine Own  
America, or My Country! 'Tis of Thee

(Learn all stanzas, particularly the last, which is a prayer.)

America the Beautiful, or O Beautiful For Spacious Skies

### Bible passages:

Psalm 95:1-6

Psalm 100

Matthew 25:34-40

Philippians 4:4-8

## Are We Spoiling Our Children?

(Continued from page 6)

Yes, we may spoil our children; not because they are not spanked or because they have too many material possessions. We spoil them if we fail to use positive discipline, give our children "things" instead of ourselves in love, fail to meet their needs, and fail to orient our families in the Christian concept of stewardship.

### Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 25)

SOLUTION: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in thee. In God, whose word I praise, In God I trust without a fear. What can flesh do to me?" (Psalm 56:3-4)

### The Words

A Tail	K Fumed
B Hide	L Mute
C Winter	M Giant
D Shrine	N Mouse
E Twin	O Worse
F Foot	P Wait
G Right	Q Water
H Happy	R Food
I Chain	S Dust
J Hair	T Soda

## The Little Yellow Pumpkin

(Continued from page 21)

others.

Grandpa Whitman was reading at the window of the little cottage. He rapped on the glass with his cane to invite the children in.

"Well, well, well!" chuckled Grandpa Whitman in surprise when Betty Lou held out the basket.

"It is something that wears a yellow jacket," hinted the little girl with merry eyes.

By this time Grandpa Whitman had lifted the cover and discovered a small round pumpkin in the basket.

Grandpa Whitman took the pumpkin

from the basket and turned it slowly around on his hand. "A yellow jacket to be sure," he said jovially. "And there isn't a prettier color in the world on a dark November day than the shiny yellow jacket that a pumpkin wears."

Then Grandpa Whitman went on turning the small pumpkin around on his hand. He seemed to be thinking seriously, and the children wondered what he was going to say about the little yellow pumpkin.

"This golden pumpkin," began Grandpa Whitman thoughtfully, "tells me of a rich harvest that made some people thankful a long time ago."

"These people had been cold and hungry the winter before. They were so glad now for the grain that meant food for the winter that they decided to set a day apart to give special thanks. They knew, you see, that the grain and all the other things they had were gifts from God."

"It is a queer thing," mused Grandpa Whitman, "but people do sometimes forget to thank God for all the good things he has given. So the governor of these people chose a certain day for saying 'Thank you.'"

Suddenly Grandpa Whitman picked up the little pumpkin again. Turning it slowly around, he nodded his head thoughtfully.

"Yes," he nodded finally, "this jolly little pumpkin with its bright yellow jacket is telling me now of the things the Pilgrim Fathers shared with their neighbors on the first Thanksgiving Day."

"Their neighbors were the Indians, you remember. And the Pilgrims shared pies and wild turkey and cranberries with these neighbors."

"I suppose that was the way of saying 'Thank You' too," said Grandpa Whitman. "For it seems to me that sharing is one of the finest ways of saying 'Thank you' to God for his gift to us."

"Humph!" exclaimed Grandpa Whitman, turning to look at the little pumpkin he had placed on the table. "This little yellow pumpkin that came up the long hill is telling me something else too."

"It tells me," said Grandpa Whitman, looking at the children with twinkling eyes, "that someone else is saying, 'Thank You' today in sharing Thanksgiving things. I suppose we do have almost as many things to be thankful for as the Pilgrims did," added Grandpa Whitman, looking at the children questioningly.

"Why we have even more things to be thankful for than the Pilgrims did," declared Margaret, while Dean and Betty Lou nodded solemnly with her.

A minute later Grandpa Whitman was holding the little pumpkin up again and turning it around slowly. "The shiny yellow jacket that this pumpkin wears is a pretty color," he repeated.

"We hope the little pumpkin will

(Continued on page 30)



# family Counselor

**Q** ISN'T THERE A MIDDLE COURSE between spoon feeding a child until he is three or four years of age and allowing a child to take over his own feeding from the time he reaches for the spoon? I'm not a grandmother, but a mother of two boys. When my boys reached for the spoon they were allowed to hold on along with mother. That way they received much-needed practice. A little later they were given a spoon of their own, but mother was always close by to supervise and help.

By the time they were fifteen or sixteen months old they were having their meals with the family. At two years of age they could go to relatives' or friends' houses or to a restaurant and do a good job of feeding themselves. Never were they allowed to dump their food on the floor, pour it on their heads, or play in it. A wet dishcloth was handy to mop up any accidental spills.

Compared to friends' children who were allowed to feed themselves with no supervision, my children did a far better and neater job at two years of age. I don't believe they lacked confidence and self-reliance just because they were given a little needed help during the learning stage. I'm sure my supervising meals and not having to clean up the messes my friends had for several years saved me a lot of time and patience, and at the same time taught my children good habits.

**A** THE ANSWER to your question is in the affirmative. There is indeed a middle ground between too much and too little supervision of children as they learn to eat properly and to use eating utensils.

It is important, of course, that parents should be patient with children as they learn to handle a spoon and a fork. Much of the learning will be through trial and error, and it must be expected that there will be a certain amount of messiness and the spilling of food. It can be expected, furthermore, that if children are not in a mood to eat and food is placed before them, they are likely either to play with it or throw it on the floor.

This does not mean, however, that such behavior is to be accepted without any effort to deal with it constructively. When children start to play with food, it can be taken from them. They can be led to understand that food is not to be thrown on the floor, or poured on their heads. Proper supervision, as you have found out, can prevent these things from

happening—at least from happening very frequently. Help in using a spoon or a fork can speed up the process of learning to use them—use them, that is, as well as a child can be expected to use them.

I am sure I do not need to remind you, however, that in spite of the value of supervision, there can be too much supervision. Parents who are too eager that their children shall develop "good manners" can make life pretty miserable for their children. If the parents are always correcting the way a child uses a spoon and always remonstrate when something is spilled, they make mealtimes a very unpleasant experience. Children who are overcorrected are likely to become nervous and to have difficulty in digesting food properly. They may even learn to dislike food itself.

It should be remembered, too, that in this, as in every aspect of development, the rate of development differs for each child and one child may learn to eat properly much earlier than another.

*Daniel M. Maynard*



## Christmas Card Tricks

(Continued from page 27)

grandchild—always on one side of one sheet. We refrain from references too personal for not-so-close friends to understand and appreciate. Many recipients are elderly persons from whom we expect no return. Consequently, at more expense than we can afford, we strain to make our Christmas card one of our good-will contributions to the holiday season.

Out of our experience, therefore, we dare to suggest some effective "tricks" of family letter technique:

Whether you choose Christmas stationery or plain paper on which you attach a seal; whether you mimeograph or print, adorn with picture or drawing, stay on one side of one sheet! The most serious fault of too many letters is surplus length. A 1958 record-breaker detailed in six close-typed pages the activities month by month, even partly by hours, of one family: how Mother felt at Sally's birthday party, what Sally said upon leaving Baby at home while the rest of the family vacationed, what Father meditated upon at Lincoln's monument! Such writers include also wordy editorials on concepts of Christmas, the threat of Communism, and the beauty of last August fourteenth sunset at Lake Lofty.

Let restraint be the watchword. People like to hear *where* you went last summer but they don't care for a guided tour. Likewise avoid excess jubilation over the success of a new job, the purchase of a Cadillac, the precocity of offspring. Be modest. Stating attainments is one thing—citing statistics, quoting the child's bright sayings, exuding pride is another. A little humor, even at your own expense, is always a welcome element to your readers.

Stick to prose unless you know that poetry is more than rhyming the last words of lines. Be sincere, not flowery, not prophetic. You can personalize mimeographed letters by writing in red or green ink, "Dear Bob and Alice" at the top and letting all members of the family sign names at the bottom. Extending *seasonal* greetings is better than limiting to Christmas, for then you can mail to belated additions to your list without seeming tardy.

Let your letter express your family's individuality. One of our neighbors, who had tirelessly circulated petitions for a new high school, sent out an inexpensive but clever greeting, signed by him, his wife, and two sons, "We, the undersigned, do petition . . ." the granting of good cheer for Christmas and the New Year. An editor and his wife, both professional church workers, who went behind the Iron Curtain last summer, reproduced on their Christmas card a photograph of them posing with Russian churchmen and, underneath, a prayer for world peace. A career girl made her greetings from construction paper in the shape of a package, on

which a tiny ribbon was glued, crossed and tied: "A Christmas gift card for Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Heron." Inside the folder was her own original four-line poem (that scanned).

Such individualized Christmas cards take time and creative effort, yes, but they bless with the kindling kindness of Christmas both those who give and those who receive.

## The Little Yellow Pumpkin

(Continued from page 28)

make a good Thanksgiving pie, too," said Margaret, ready to start down the hill with the others.

Grandpa Whitman nodded. "No pumpkin would make better Thanksgiving pie, I think, than one that thankful children have carried to the top of a long hill," he chuckled as he waved goodbye with his cane.

Betty Lou went skipping down the hill ahead of Margaret and Dean. At the halfway tree, she waited for the others.

"Wasn't it fun to hear Grandpa Whitman tell what the little pumpkin told him?" asked Betty Lou. "It was a good thing we decided to go together, wasn't it?"

"Yes, it was," said Margaret. "Now we all know what a little yellow pumpkin can tell about Thanksgiving."

## Study Guide

(Continued from page 24)

Caldecott or a Newbery Award book?

6. What is the distinction between them?

7. What is the supreme value of a home book shelf?

8. What do you find most helpful about Nancy Larrick's *Parent's Guide to Children's Reading*?

9. What is the most effective way to use one of the wonderful Christmas Anthologies available at most libraries?

### IV. Available Helps

"How can you mend your ailing Ford? How can you grow a fancy gourd? You need some blue prints for the house? What will exterminate the mouse?"

### ASK THE LIBRARY!"

#### Books

Comic Books, Blue Prints for Delinquency, *Reader's Digest*. May, 1954. Seduction of the Innocent. Fredric Wertham, M.D., 1954. Rinehart & Co., 232 Madison Ave., New York 16. Board of Missions and Education. 222 South Downey Ave., Indianapolis-7, Indiana. Source Material about BABS: BOOKS ARE BRIDGES.

#### Films

Ask your Library for any films available for group use.


W  
I  
L  
B  
U  
R

BAKERY



"Boy! Wouldn't I like to be fifty years old for a few minutes."





# BOOKS for the hearthside

## For Young People

What young girl doesn't thrill at the expectancy of the week end, especially of **Saturday Night**, by Marjorie Holmes (The Westminster Press, 1959, 201 pages, \$2.95). Carlotta Williams, fondly called "Carly," is such a young lady. She works at Deal's 5 and 10, is a junior in high school and, after her first few dates with Danny Keller, is one of the most popular girls around town. Naturally Danny is the popular guy. Somehow he has developed a special ability for getting along with everyone, and especially the girls. An unconventionalist by nature, Danny is extremely unpredictable. Carly is hardly ever sure if he will ask her to go to the town's special functions. She never knows what they will be doing on a date. It's all so exciting and adventurous, who cares? However, Carly is in for a shock and so is Danny as they weave their dates around the beautiful Windy Lake.

The story is so real and vivid that teen-agers will identify themselves and their friends with the interesting characters in the book. A better understanding and appreciation of one's self and friends is one of the by-products of the book.

Jackie Corda is a real heroine in a new book by Janet Randall entitled, **Tumbleweed Heart** (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., New York, 1959, 183 pages, \$2.95). The story begins with Jackie and her mother as newcomers to a small desert town bearing the name Arroyo Verde. A bachelor uncle has invited them to live with him, Jackie's father having died from a long illness. Getting settled in the community brought its problems. Having had some experience as a sports editor for two years in a big high school in San Francisco, Jackie feels certain that she will be elected assistant editor of the school paper. To her dismay she loses the election. Fortunately, her mother comes

to the rescue, sees an ad for a part-time news correspondent in the local paper. Jackie applies, secures the job, and is off for an eventful year working on the paper and going to the many activities at school. One of Jackie's favorite pastimes is to care for Joshua, her doctor uncle's riding horse. He had used it before the paved roads for calling on the sick. Much of the action in the story centers around the town. Being a news reporter, Jackie is kept busy catching up on the news in town and at school. Naturally there are a couple of young fellows who make her life more exciting and, at times, miserable. Teen-agers will enjoy this action-packed book.

## For Children

A simply told story of the coming of the Christ Child is **The Coming of the King**, by Norman Vincent Peale (Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1956, unpagged, \$2.00). The book includes incidents preceding and following the Nativity. After each incident is related, there is printed the Scripture upon which it is based. The book is very attractive. The beautiful end papers, the use of tint blocks with the Scripture passages, and William Moyer's CHARMING illustrations, which are on almost every page, combine to make this an appealing book.

Children who are from six to ten years of age are developing a growing interest in customs of the past. **The Light in the Tower**, by Joan Howard (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co., Inc., New York, 1957, unpagged, \$2.50), is a true story of Mark Island, off the coast of Maine. Here, for almost 100 years, the light in the lighthouse shone out over the sea. Then came the day when the lighthouse keeper left. For twenty years the tower was dark. One rainy day in early spring, a new family came to live on the island. They saw the birds return and the island bloom with flowers in summer, but the tower still was dark. They saw the ducks fly south in autumn, and the rough winds hurl spray and

snow on the island in winter. And still the tower was dark. On Christmas Eve, with the house decorated with tree, wreaths and garlands, the little boy climbed the steps to the tower. He took with him a small Christmas tree and decorated it lovingly. How the tower glowed with light, welcoming the fishermen returning home, is a heartwarming story.

This beautiful story is complemented by the format of the book. Adrienne Adams' lovely four color and black and white illustrations add much to make this book a delight to both children and adults.

## For Adults

Since eating is always in fashion cookbooks are always in demand. That is enough justification for **Abingdon Basic Cookbook**, by Mary L. Chenault (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1959, 219 pages, \$3.75). The author is teacher of Foods and Home Management at Nashville's Watkin's Institute since 1934 and the book is made up of selections from her file of tested recipes. After some twenty pages of general directions and helps delicious (sounding) recipes follow for Appetizers, Soups, Salads, Snacks, Beverages, Shells and Cases, Main Dishes, Meats, Fruits, Vegetables, Sauces, Breads, Sandwiches, Desserts. An inclusive index will be appreciated by the busy cook. The book is featured by a plastic binding with heavy card stock pages.

Lives of great men are always absorbing reading. This is true of **Blithe Genius: The Story of Rossini**, by Gladys Malvern (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., New York, 1959, 202 pages, \$2.95). Here is a moderately fictionalized biography of Antonio Rossini, composer of many famous operas such as *Barber of Seville*, *Tancredi*, *Otello*, *Ermione*, and *William Tell*. Readers will enjoy the echoes of the musical world of the first 60 years of the 19th century this book captures.



# OVER THE BACK FENCE

## New Help for Parents' Groups!

Beginning with January, 1960, *Hearthstone* will offer parents' groups in the churches new program materials. For ten years a "Study Article with Study Guide" has been a feature each month. This material has been the basis of monthly meetings of parents' groups in many churches.

There has been an increasing request for more material of this nature which will help parents' groups that meet more frequently than once a month. Many parents' classes in Sunday church school sessions desire discussion and program material for weekly meetings. Other groups meeting weekly but at times other than Sunday morning, also, need such helps.

Elsewhere in this issue (page 12) is a listing of topics for articles planned for 1960 and of meetings based upon the articles. Leaders of parents' groups will keep in mind that each month two articles will be provided (except in July and August when only one will appear). These articles will present general background information and suggestions that will be used as the basis for four meetings each month. The meetings will each be outlined in some detail so that the groups will be able to conduct discussions or otherwise consider the topic.

For example, let us look at one of the articles for January. Richard E. Lentz, national director of family life for the Disciples of Christ, will prepare an article with the tentative title "Your Family and Christian Faith." It will provide material that will be of interest to the general reader even if he is not a member of a parents' group in his church. It will also, however, contain background material for two meetings with these tentative topics: "What Is a

Christian Family?" and "Christian School of Faith." There will be a full page of guidance suggestions for each of these two topics, providing a suggested purpose, ways to prepare for the meeting, procedures to follow in holding the meeting, and additional resources in pamphlets, books, and audio-visuals.

This program material will have a large degree of flexibility in its use. Where parents' groups in a church are meeting monthly they will have a choice of topics to consider for their program. Or they may combine two topics and the article on which they are based into one program. It is not impossible to conceive that some groups may even wish to use the four meeting topics as different phases of a single program!

Committees in a church responsible for planning a monthly Church Family Night will find this material helpful. With some advance planning a program could be developed that would have some values for all members of the families participating.

Although certain topics are suggested each month it will not be necessary for any group to use any article or meeting topic in any particular month. Occasionally some title will have a seasonal reference but for the most part any topic can be used at any time of the year. Hence copies of *Hearthstone* should be saved for later use by planning committees. It is especially suggested that the list given on page 12 be filed for future reference.

*Hearthstone* editors will be happy to hear from its readers—asking questions or offering suggestions as to this new plan.

## Items of Interest

The White House Conference on Children and Youth celebrates its Golden Anniversary in March, 1960... The marriage and birth rates both declined during 1958 although the latter still remained at about the 4½ million mark... About 400,000 children under 12 must look after themselves while their mothers work.



# Poetry Page

## Kitchen Gratitude

Within the kitchen women spend  
Some busy hours on this day  
While menfolk stand around and talk  
And children run about at play.

The turkey must be stuffed and browned,  
And there are vegetables to peel;  
The pies and puddings must be served  
To relatives who share the meal.

Yet this is how the womenfolk  
Join in Thanksgiving gratitude;  
They cook the food that men have raised,  
A joyous, harvest interlude.

—Louise Darcy

## Baking Bread

Because our Lord broke bread,  
And blessed its breaking, too,  
And multitudes were fed,  
Or chosen, nearest few,  
—Hallowed the lovely art  
Of baking bread to feed  
Those nearest to the heart,  
Or fill a neighbor's need;  
And hallowed be each meal  
That mother's hand prepares,  
*May this food bless and heal,*  
—*Feed angels, unawares.*

—Jean Hogan Dudley

## A Thanksgiving Request

A harvest anthem ringing in the heart,  
Proclaims that Nature wears a lovely crest;  
She stores her ripened fruits in autumn's mart,  
And offers with a lavish hand, her best.  
Rejoicing in the climax of the year,  
She blends her joy with peace and harmony;  
And asks that thanks be spoken strong and clear,  
For bounty God has given full and free.

—Clyde S. Creel

## Changed-Unchanged

“Throw on another lightwood knot,  
And get the Bible, Son.”  
Then Grandpa read God's holy Word  
And prayed, when day was done.

“Run get a match—I'll light the lamp,  
And bring the Bible, Son.”  
Then Father read, and prayed that God  
Would keep us every one.

And now I say: “Turn on the light,  
It's time to go to bed.”  
Again the same dear Book is brought  
And evening prayers are said.

The lights of eventide have changed  
Through countless ages past.  
But God's great Book remains the same—  
Unchanged, while time shall last!

—Edith Limer Ledbetter



*In the morning or evening, set aside a few moments for your family and friends to read **THE SECRET PLACE.***

*For each day of the four seasons, **THE SECRET PLACE** provides a theme of compelling human interest. Around this personal account, a brief devotional service is built, with a short Bible reading, a key verse easy to remember, and a closing prayer. Establishing this devotional pattern daily in your home brings its own rewards. Your family will bless you for it.*



October November December 1959

## **The Secret Place**

Daily Devotions for Individual and Family Use

### **SEND YOUR ORDER TODAY**

Two-year subscription (four issues a year), \$1.00

One-year subscription, 50c

Single copy, 15c

Five or more copies mailed to one address in the United States or Canada, postpaid, 10c per copy

A permanent, protective binder, leatherette, gold-stamped **THE SECRET PLACE**, for single issue, 75c

### **THE AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY**

1703 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

### **CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION**

Beaumont and Pine Blvd., Box 179, St. Louis 66 Mo.